

16 Israelis hurt in Lebanon blast

BEIRUT (R) — Sixteen Israeli soldiers were wounded Friday when their bus hit a mine near the village of Kfar Mechki in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, an Israeli military spokesman said. He said all injuries were light. The spokesman did not say whether the mine was newly planted or was left over from previous battles. The Palestine news agency WAFA, in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, said the mine was planted by "Lebanese resistance fighters." The Israeli spokesman denied a WAFA report of an ambush on two Israeli patrols in the Bekaa Valley town of Rasbaya Al Wadi where WAFA said an officer and two soldiers were killed. Israel said Thursday a soldier was killed the previous night by small arms fire coming from behind Syrian lines in the Bekaa.

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Israel exiles PLO leader

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli authorities in the occupied Gaza Strip have ordered a founder member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to be banished from his home and confined to a small village, military sources said Thursday. They said Abdul Aziz Shahin, who was in the PLO's first cell with Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, was told to leave his home in Rafah to live in Dahanie, near the Egyptian border.

India voices concern over Mideast tension

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Friday voiced concern over growing tension in the Middle East in talks here with the Soviet Union's First Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov. A government spokesman quoted Mr. Rao as saying there was "an imminent danger to peace in the region."

Israel ready to ship arms to Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Israel's envoy to Central America said Thursday his country would probably ship arms to Honduras in the event of an emergency. Envoy Moshe Dayan told reporters: "We would be in the best frame of mind to supply them (arms) if Honduras faced an emergency."

Spiljak assumes Bulgarian presidency

BELGRADE (R) — Mika Spiljak Friday became president of Yugoslavia in succession to Petar Stambolic, who ended his one-year term as head of the country's nine-man collective state presidency. At the same time Vidoje Zarkovic became vice-president for the next 12 months. He will take over as president next year under the system by which the office rotates annually.

Defferre to visit Saudi Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — French Interior Minister Gaston Defferre will arrive in Riyadh Saturday for a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Press Agency said Friday.

U.N. team to inspect Gulf war damage

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with the assent of the Security Council, announced Thursday that he will dispatch next week a U.N. mission to inspect war damage in Iran and Iraq.

Coalminers kick, punch director

GLASGOW (R) — Miners kicked and punched a top official of Britain's state-owned coal industry Friday after he announced the closure of their pit, police said. Some 200 men surged forward as Albert Wheeler, director of the National Coal Board in Scotland, left Cardowan colliery in Glasgow. Missiles were thrown and Mr. Wheeler was crushed against his car but was not hurt, police said.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية "الراي"

Political rivals clash in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 40 people were injured Friday as clashes broke out for the second day running in the North Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir in the run-up to local assembly elections on June 5. The Press Trust of India news agency said police used tear gas and batons to disperse supporters of rival political parties who clashed in the town of Charar-i-Sharif about 30 kilometres from the state capital Srinagar. One person was killed and more than 100 people were injured Thursday when supporters of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party fought with members of the locally-ruled National Conference Party in several parts of the state, which borders Pakistan. There were 12 policemen among the injured Friday, the agency said.

Lebanon pact near completion despite tough Syrian resistance

NETANYA (R) — Negotiations on an Israeli military withdrawal from Lebanon neared completion Friday even though a firm Syrian rejection set back hopes of putting the draft agreement into effect.

Lebanese, Israeli and American delegation met for more than four hours to put the final touches on the agreement, which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz worked out last week.

Israeli officials said there were still translation details to be sorted out and negotiators would meet here again on Sunday before the agreement was signed, probably next week.

While the talks continued Friday in a 14-storey hotel overlooking the Mediterranean, Syria toughened its opposition to Israel for its invasion of Lebanon.

Assad talks tough

In Damascus, President Hafez Al Assad attacked the U.S.-drafted deal saying it would make Lebanon a protectorate of Israel.

But Mr. Assad's tough criticism differed from an earlier statement by his foreign minister in that he said Syria did not agree with the draft without using the word "rejection."

Diplomats in Beirut said it was difficult to know how much to read into the nuance. It was possible Mr. Assad had made the distinction to avoid being labelled a "rejectionist" or to leave the door fractionally ajar for negotiating changes in the draft, they said.

But for the semantic difference, Mr. Assad's attack on the U.S.-Lebanese-Israeli accord was as tough as that made by Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam earlier and more detailed.

A presidential palace spokesman quoted Mr. Assad as saying:

Reagan wins MX vote

WASHINGTON (R) — For second time in two days, a congressional committee has approved funds sought by President Reagan for flight testing the controversial MX missile.

Both votes came after committee members obtained a written pledge from saying he would back an arms reduction plan under which the U.S. and Soviet Union would destroy old missiles as they added new ones to their nuclear arsenals.

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted 17-11 to release \$560 million for testing and development of the multiple-warhead MX, frozen by Congress last year.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives Defence Appropriations Subcommittee also approved release of the funds.

Release of the funds must still be approved by both the Senate and House of Representatives. Money to build the missiles must be approved separately.

MX supporters said the missile should be approved to strengthen Mr. Reagan's hand in arms negotiations with Moscow. Opponents said it was too expensive and could not survive a Soviet attack.

"We've got to act," Mississippi Democrat John Stennis said in voting for the funds.

WHO raps Israel's 'aggressive policy'

GENEVA (R) — A committee of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Thursday condemned Israel's "aggressive policy" and continuous shelling of Arab residential areas including refugee camps.

A resolution, adopted by 65 votes to 17 with 25 abstentions, also condemned Israel for its settlement policy in occupied territories.

Israel and the United States, as well as most Western countries,

Discussing U.S. President Reagan's Middle East peace plan, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions at the meeting spent days deciding on which word to use before compromising on "refusing to accept" the plan.

Although the agreement negotiated by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz after an intensive shuttle mission is between the United States, Israel and Lebanon, Syria has an effective veto on its implementation.

This is because Israel has insisted on a "side-paper" to the accord, in which it states it will only withdraw its men if Syria and its PLO allies do the same.

But Syria has countered by consistently stating that it will only pull out if Israel does.

Although some Syrian statements have been ambiguous on the timing of withdrawals, others have specifically stated that Syria will only move once every Israeli soldier has left Lebanon.

In Washington Friday the White House said it would continue to urge Syria to withdraw despite its rejection of the agreement.

According to U.S. estimates, around 25,000 Israeli troops are still in Lebanon after the invasion almost a year ago.

There are upwards of 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon. They were deployed in 1976 at the request of the Arab League to help moves to end Lebanon's civil war.

Some of the estimated 6,000-8,000 Palestinian fighters in Lebanon were already in the north or the Eastern Bekaa Valley before last June's Israeli invasion while others retreated there from Beirut during the fighting.

The Palestinians are believed to include a number of PLO men who have filtered back into Lebanon through Syria after being evacuated to other countries when the Israelis took west Beirut.

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(Continued on page 3)

Weinberger: Soviets heighten tension

Soviets had "troops units" in Syria, not just advisers or trainers. U.S. officials said the units were not fighting units, but crews to man the SAM-5 batteries.

He said in a speech prepared for delivery to a meeting of the American Jewish Committee that the Soviet build-up made more difficult the effort to achieve the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

The Soviets have installed SAM-5s (surface-to-air missiles) that cover Israeli airspace, they have literally flooded Syria with new arms, and they have issued provocative statements disengaging U.S., Israeli, Lebanese efforts to bring peace and stability to Lebanon," he said.

Mr. Weinberger added that the

voted against the resolution, which is expected to be approved by WHO's assembly next week.

The committee also asked the U.N. agency to follow up health conditions of hundreds of teenage Arab girls afflicted by an epidemic in the Israeli-occupied West Bank in March.

WHO experts failed to establish the specific cause for the illnesses. The U.S. Centre for Disease Control, which studied the cases, said

the epidemic was induced by anxiety.

Palestinian representative Fathi Arafat told the committee the experts had arrived too late on the scene to be able to detect poisons.

Mr. Arafat, head of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, said nine Israeli soldiers had also fallen ill with the same symptoms. "This proves that the illness was not due to psychological stress," he added.

The allegations stem from his past role as a senior official of Bechtel, a San Francisco-based engineering company with extensive business in the Arab World, and his push for arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries.

(Continued on page 3)

Former KGB agent reports Soviet buildup off Japan

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union has moved large numbers of troops to islands off north Japan as part of an operation aimed at forcing Tokyo to drop its demand for their return, according to former KGB agent Stanislav Levchenko.

Mr. Levchenko, who defected to the United States in 1979 after four years in Japan during which he posed as a journalist, spoke of the troop deployments during an interview in Washington with Tokyo's Fuji Television.

His comments were published in the Sankei daily Friday.

Mr. Levchenko said the Soviet Union was conducting a long-term

operation aimed at creating a public climate in Japan in favour of dropping demands for the return of four Kurile islands occupied in 1945.

The Japanese Defence Ministry has said that about 10,000 Soviet troops are on three of the four islands.

Mr. Levchenko told the U.S. House of Representatives intelligence committee last December that the KGB had contacts with about 200 Japanese in the 1970s.

He named a number of people as agents in a recent article in an American magazine.

Hussein meets Thatcher

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein called on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday for talks on the Middle East, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The King, who is on a private visit to Britain, had a working lunch with Foreign Secretary Francis Pym Thursday.

The talks between the King and Mrs. Thatcher focused on the situation in Lebanon and the chances of establishing peace in the area, Petra said.

They also made a general review of international affairs and bilateral relations, the agency said.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State at the Foreign Office Douglas Hurd.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, seen off Thursday on his departure to the U.S. by His Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Muad Badran (left), Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (far left), Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi (right), Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid (far right) and the American ambassador to Jordan, Richard Viets, look on (Petra photo).

Arafat in Syria

While attention was focussed on Mr. Salem's talks in Damascus, Palestinian sources reported that PLO leader Yasser Arafat had arrived in the Syrian capital from Tunis Friday to chair various meetings of his own Fatah commando group and other PLO chiefs.

Mr. Arafat met Mr. Assad in Damascus earlier this month for the first time since last September. Their reconciliation was seen as almost a year ago.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) to replace their ration cards with identity cards, which the UNRWA has been implementing since the beginning of May.

Officials of the General Committee for Refugees in Jordan said

on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein.

The 11th conference of the NAAA, which opened Thursday,

(Continued on page 3)

Hassan off to U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan left Amman Thursday for the United States where he is scheduled to address the National Association of American Arabs (NAAA) on

(Continued on page 3)

Refugee leaders reaffirm rejection of identity cards

AMMAN (J.T.) — Leading dignitaries representing Palestinian refugees have reaffirmed their unequivocal rejection of the measure taken by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) to replace their ration cards with identity cards, which the UNRWA has been implementing since the beginning of May.

The committee will begin an intensive campaign to explain its views to Jordanian officials and other concerned bodies, a spokesman on behalf of the committee said Saturday. The spokesman said that the committee will present its case to Prime Minister Muad Badran and Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Hassan Ibrahim, as well as sending

(Continued on page 3)

Aziz expects U.S. move to end Gulf war

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz was quoted Friday as saying he expected the United States to take an initiative in the Security Council to end the Gulf war.

Mr. Aziz, who met U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Paris this week, told Le Monde newspaper in an interview: "It is time the members of the Security Council adopt resolutions that are not merely wishful but have the power to force a return to peace (between Iraq and Iran)."

The texts should allow for sanctions in the case of non-application. Mr. Shultz greeted my suggestion in a positive way and I think the United States will take an initiative."

Mr. Aziz, in Paris to seek fresh arms supplies and negotiate Iraq's debt to France, said by Le Monde to be around 13 billion francs (\$1.8 billion).

He said Iraq was offering France between 2.5 and 3.5 million tonnes of crude oil but did not specify over what period.

Mr. Aziz met French Defence Minister Charles Hernu and a ministry statement said the two men made a detailed analysis of existing arms contracts and discussed future cooperation.

Mr. Aziz met External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson this week and was due to see him again Friday.

The ambassador pledged he would convey the Japanese request to the Iraqi government, Foreign Ministry officials said.

On Thursday a spokesman for the Mitsui-led consortium said in Tokyo the group was adhering to its policy of not resuming work on the complex while the Gulf war continues.

"We will strike as soon as repair work starts," the spokesman said, adding that the safety of Japanese workers could not be guaranteed.

The Iraqi warning came after Iran's deputy oil minister for petrochemical affairs, Mostafa Taheri, began talks in Tokyo on Wednesday with a group of Japanese companies on the resumption of construction.

The ambassador pledged he would convey the Japanese request to the Iraqi government, Foreign Ministry officials said.

On Thursday a spokesman for the Mitsui-led consortium said in Tokyo the group was adhering to its policy of not resuming work on the complex while the Gulf war continues.

Japan asks Iraq to spare Iran's petrochemical plant

TOKYO (R) — Japan asked Iraq not to bomb a massive Japanese-Iranian petrochemical complex at the Iranian port

FEATURES

Rich Japanese favour imported cars for prestige

By Ikuo Anai
Reuter

IWAKI, Japan — Japan sold the world 5.6 million vehicles last year, but in this northern Japanese city Mitsuo Okada profited from the prestige of foreign cars.

Okada Motor Company Limited, a 19-year-old family business with a staff of four, sells only three or four cars a year, mainly Mercedes-Benz from West Germany. The price of each would buy 15 to 20 sub-compact Japanese cars.

"My customers include doctors, nightclub owners and Yakuza (gangster) bosses who can readily afford to pay 15 million yen (\$16,400) for a four-door Mercedes," Okada said.

"They favour big imported cars for the sake of social status and a Yakuza boss wants to impress his

rivals," he said.

Most of the imported cars sold in Japan come from West Germany — Volkswagen, Mercedes and BMW in that order.

Imports from the United States slumped by half from 1981 to 1982, making up only 10 per cent of the 35,500 foreign cars shipped to Japan last year.

Okada blamed the sinking popularity of American cars on moves by troubled U.S. carmakers to copy Japanese cars. "My customers who don't care about fuel efficiency are disappointed that American cars are no longer American," he said.

Okada, who stopped importing American cars three years ago, said his customers used to buy them for their powerful engines.

"But you can guess their shock when their American cars were easily outpaced on the highway by

2,000 cc Japanese models," he said. "They couldn't tolerate it."

Okada said that Japanese small cars were superior in quality and performance to U.S. models.

But Kenji Kawai, spokesman for Ford Motor Company (Japan) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary in Tokyo of the second largest U.S. car maker, disagreed that quality was the reason for declining U.S. sales in Japan.

The main factor is the foreign exchange rate," Kawai said, referring to the yen's steep depreciation against the dollar last year, which made American cars more expensive for Japanese buyers.

Okada has been highly critical of tight government quality restrictions on both domestic cars and imports.

He published a book last July attacking the Transport Ministry's

regulation that domestic-made cars undergo meticulous and costly mechanical inspections every two years.

Okada also was the first person to lodge a complaint with the office of trade Ombudsman, set up in January last year as part of government measures to give foreign manufacturers wider access to Japanese markets.

Okada complained that when he tried to take delivery of imported cars he had problems getting them cleared by customs officials.

"They work on individual whims rather than established standards," he said.

He said he protested to the Ombudsman after officials at Tokyo Airport refused to release two Mercedes until he had removed fire extinguishers and first-aid kits on the grounds that they, not the cars, did not meet local

standards.

To alleviate persistent criticism from the United States and the European Community over Japan's large trade surpluses with them, the government announced last month new measures designed to make its safety and operating standards more equitable for imported goods, including cars.

On cars, the government said legislation would be revised to simplify procedures for certifying that foreign-made cars met Japanese safety and operating standards.

Foreign manufacturers have complained that the current system is time consuming, costly and a major impediment to importing cars into Japan.

The new regulations will ease the present "type designation system" under which inspection of

each car of a model is not required if three samples and lengthy documentation have been approved.

Government officials said that under the proposed revisions the costs would be cut by requiring submission of only one sample car and simplified documents. The time taken to qualify for approval would be cut from about seven months to 10 weeks.

The Japan Automobile Importers' Association has welcomed the move, but said it was too early to tell what effect it would have on foreign car sales.

One association official, noting that foreign cars sell in Japan for about twice the price of their Japanese equivalents, said: "If their prices fell to around the levels of Japanese cars of the same type, customers would often choose the imported car."

Vibrations from Japan

By Roy Garner

TOKYO: "Body sound" could be the next consumer fad to sweep Japan. The first product on the scene was a stereo-equipped armchair, and now, newly arrived, is stereo-equipped clothing: "Sound-wear".

Audio makers, struggling in a now-saturated consumer market, have decided that it is no longer enough for us just to listen to music, we should also be able to "feel" it.

Pioneer was the first company to convert the concept into a consumer product with a reclining armchair called "Body-sonic," launched last August, which features stereo speakers inside the headrest and number of in-built voice-coil amplification devices designed to send vibrations produced by the music tingling right through the body.

The company is already selling over 1,000 of the devices each month in the form of customised car seats installed as 50,000 yen (\$211.40) optional extras in the new Honda "City" car.

Pioneer's latest product is even more of a novelty, however, but one which could produce more social discord than harmony. Launched on April 21 under the brand name "Sound Wear," it consists of a sleeveless ski-type jacket with water-resistant speakers built into the shoulders and wires feeding internally to a "Walkman" stereo set in one pocket and a "sound booster" in the other.

Having donned this sound wear, the user is offered the benefits of unobstructed movement, and the absence of headphones, while at the same time being able to listen to his, or her, favourite sounds.

The inventor of "Sound Wear," and manager of Pioneer's product planning department, Mr. Hiroshi

Soma, stressed that power output had been limited to a capacity of 0.76 watts, and a "mute" switch has been added to the amplifier unit to minimise irritation to others. An appeal to the user to be socially conscious is also to be added to the sales brochure.

Initially, Pioneer is to make 5,000 jackets per month, selling for 22,000 yen each. The amplifier costs 10,000 yen extra, but any of the numerous "Walkman" type portable stereo units can be plugged into the outfit, which will keep down overall costs to the user.

It will be marketed through motoring stores and sportswear shops. The company plans to boost production levels at an early date, and other makers are expected to join the field soon.

Some pointed out that with sales of "Walkman" units currently at 5 million in Japan, the potential market was considerable. Of the 12 million total "Walkman" units made in Japan last year, 9.8 million were exported, reflecting the additional promise of a large export opportunity.

Some claimed that a key to the enjoyment of the new jacket was the fact that sound escaping from the rear of the special disc-shaped speakers was conducted through the bones of the body, allowing one literally to "feel" the music. It is in this way, he says, that even motorcyclists (the main initial "target" customer) travelling at 80 kph, and wearing a helmet, will be able to hear the music clearly.

The idea of "noise which goes right through you" seems destined to acquire a new meaning in Japan this year.

— Financial Times news feature

Tokyo aims to control the country's loan sharks

By Ikuo Anai
Reuter

TOKYO (R) — The alarming consequences of a law allowing Japanese money lenders to charge up to 10.5 per cent annual interest on loans have prompted parliament to pass new legislation to deal with unscrupulous loan sharks.

According to a recent police survey, an average of 20 Japanese disappear from their neighbourhoods every day because they cannot pay their debts.

Another survey by the newspaper Asahi Shimbun found that on average two people commit suicide each day, sometimes in family suicide pacts, because of their indebtedness.

Despite the human tragedy pol-

iticians have been reluctant to reverse the 30-year-old laws allowing such high charges and only now, after failing to vote on seven previous bills in the past decade, has Japan's parliament finally approved legislation to be enforced later this year.

The new law will lower the interest rate ceiling at first to 7.3 per cent and to 40 per cent in five years' time.

It gives the authorities power to suspend a money-lending business and forces the lenders, or Sarakin as they are known, to register before starting a business and to give details of loans.

At present almost anyone can set up a money lender and at the end of last year 209,000 had registered voluntarily although only half of them were believed to be active. Under the new law, convicts will not be allowed to go into

business for three years after completing their term.

The original law of 1954, which set the interest ceiling at 10.95 per cent, was introduced at a time when demand from individuals was low and commercial banks concentrated on lending to industry in the post-war reconstruction period.

But as living standards rose in the 1960s and early 1970s, money lenders proliferated to meet the rising demand for consumer finance.

Professor Shozo Ueda of Kansei University in Osaka, a recognised authority on the Sarakin industry, had estimated the money lenders were owed 3,000 billion yen (\$12.6 billion) at the end of 1981.

Left-wing opposition parties and the Japanese Bar Association have attacked the new law, insisting

produced by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, as lukewarm and ineffective in dealing with the debt tragedies.

The problems usually begin with the smaller Sarakin shops which take on the riskiest loans but charge the highest rates of interest and consequently have the highest default rate.

They use pressure, including threats of violence, to recover their money. A common tactic is repeated visits to the borrower's home with demands for repayment loud enough for neighbours to hear.

The new law tries to define and outlaw threats and pressure tactics and the larger and more responsible consumer finance companies are hoping it will drive the more disreputable loan sharks out of business.

A spokesman for Takefuji, the largest consumer finance company in Japan with outstanding loans of 300 billion yen (\$1.26 billion), said the new law would help "purify" the industry.

He said the interest ceiling of 7.3 per cent would force many Sarakin shops out of business.

The larger companies would set their maximum interest rate at 40 per cent as soon as the new law comes into force, without waiting for the five-year period to elapse, the spokesman said.

Even at 40 per cent, the interest charged by Sarakin lenders is well above the 13.5 to 15 per cent charged by a major Japanese bank on personal loans, although these are confined to workers who received regular bi-annual bonuses from companies.

Sawaya Bank introduced the so-called "quick loan" last year with a ceiling of 500,000 yen (\$21,100), but no other banks have followed suit.

Professor Ueda has estimated that only about five million people or less than five per cent of the population use the services offered by Sarakin. But the business is highly lucrative.

Consumer finance is still relatively undeveloped in the Japanese financial system but an increasing number of credit card companies, backed by banks, and even supermarkets are joining Sarakin shops in the booming small loan market.

According to a survey by Takefuji, the share of Sarakin lenders in outstanding consumer finance jumped 56 per cent to 1,599 billion yen (\$6.7 billion) in fiscal 1982, which ended in March.

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HOME NEWS

Annual archaeology scholarship given by Italian government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Italian government will offer an annual scholarship for Jordanian students and researchers interested in deepening their knowledge in archaeology or related artistic fields, the Italian ambassador said Thursday.

Marquis Fabrizio Rossi Longhi said the scholarship is a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Fuad Attallah, the renowned advocate and the former president of the Archaeological Society in Amman, as a sign of strengthening of the relations between the two countries.

The choice of the successful candidates will be made by a special 10-member committee which has been set up for the purpose. The committee is chaired by His Excellency the Italian ambassador, and will comprise of the director general of antiquities at the Ministry of Tourism, the daughter and son of Mr. Attallah and a number of his friends.

The committee will either decide to grant a single eight-month fellowship or to divide the fellowship up into a maximum of four two-month grants.

The Fuad Attallah scholarship committee held its first meeting at the Italian ambassador's residence Thursday. In opening the meeting, Marquis Longhi gave a short speech in which he paid tribute to the late Mr. Attallah.

"We hope that the fellowship will encourage those who are interested in archaeology," he said. Furthermore, he expressed the hope that the fellowship will inspire more people to follow the example of Mr. Attallah who "succeeded in making his life and the lives of others more meaningful through his contributions to his society."

It rather sad, he pointed out, that there are people who have great talent, but are not using these means to serve their society.

The late Mr. Attallah was a distinguished lawyer during the time of the British mandate. In 1949 he was appointed president of the Nabi Musa and Jerusalem Courts. Later he returned to practising law as an advocate until his death.

Senator Ahmad Al Khalil, a fellow advocate, who is also a member of the committee, told the Jordan Times that "Mr. Attallah was a prominent lawyer who was dedicated in the service of his country and his people."

"The late Mr. Attallah played an important role in enhancing relations between the people of Jordan and Italy," he added.

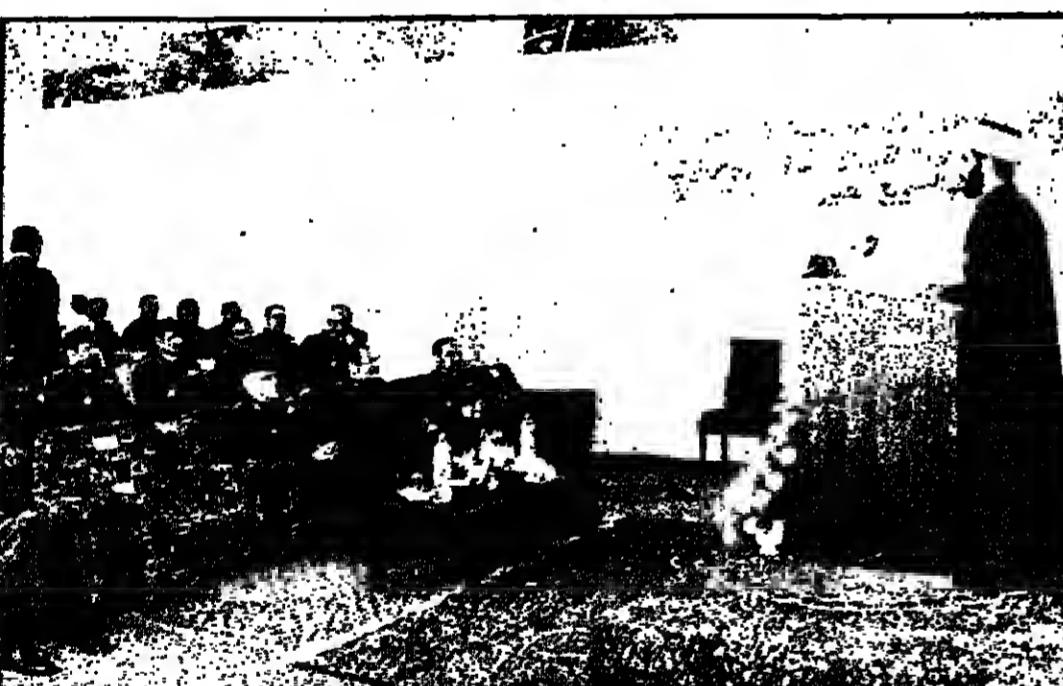
Swiss consul to give goodbye party

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swiss consul in Amman Max Wegmueller will give a farewell party Wednesday to mark the end of his assignment in Jordan and his transfer to another post, Al Ra'i newspaper reported Thursday.

Mr. Wegmueller has served as first secretary and consul in Jordan for the last five years. During his term, he was active in developing commercial and cultural relations between Jordan and Switzerland.

Bank approves loans for school building

IRBID (Petra) — The Development Bank for Municipalities and Villages (DBMV) has approved a JD 10,000 loan to the Ajloun municipality to construct a reservoir. It also approved a JD 12,000 loan to the Hour village council, a JD 10,000 loan to the Fo'ura village council, and a JD 16,000 loan to the Habka village council in the Irbid Governorate to cover the cost of constructing school buildings in these villages.



The Public Security Directorate Thursday celebrates the feast of Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj (Petra photo)

Lebanon pact near completion

(Continued from page 1)

On his return to Beirut, Mr. Salem indicated that Syria's rejection would not affect Lebanon's plan to sign the agreement.

"While we know that Syria does not accept his agreement, we also know that Lebanese-Syrian relations are solid," he said.

President Assad raised several questions, some about the effect of the agreement on Lebanon and others about Lebanese-Syrian relations and Lebanese-Arab relations.

"Each agreement has interpretations. There is a Syrian interpretation, with which we differ."

Mr. Salem added: "This agreement ensures an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Neither Syria nor any other Arab state has suggested alternatives. We feel the benefit to Lebanon of an Israeli withdrawal outweighs the price."

Tuesday appeared to be the earliest date on which the agreement could be signed.

Israeli officials said Prime Minister Menachem Begin wanted the Knesset to vote on the agreement, even though the constitution did not stipulate parliamentary approval.

A vote is due on Monday and since the Labour opposition is

expected to abstain, approval seems almost certain.

The government approved the draft in principle last week but asked for clarifications on "security" arrangements. The Foreign Ministry said Thursday it had now received these.

The officials said the agreement would probably be signed at two ceremonies, one in the Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona and one in Kfardebian, south of Beirut. These were the principal venues for the negotiations.

In New York, former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon said Syria is reluctant to leave Lebanon because it would lose a half billion dollars in "taxes" a year it levies on the bashish trade in the Bekaa Valley.

The Labour Party said that while it was conducting its opposition to the government at home, Mr. Sharon was "slandering" the decisions of his own ruling Likud coalition abroad.

"This shows the general anarchy in the government," the statement added.

The little known reason for this is Syria's reluctance to give up its very rewarding stake in Lebanon's bashish trade. Syria's income from taxation of the Bekaa Valley bashish trade comes to half billion dollars."

He criticised Mr. Shultz's peace plan for Lebanon as not being realistic, although he said that on paper "it is beautiful."

Labour wants Sharon recalled

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's opposition Labour Party Thursday summoned home hard-line cabinet minister Ariel Sharon for criticising Israeli policy during a visit to the United States.

A party statement said Mr. Sharon, the former defence minister, should be recalled immediately from a fund-raising tour for his criticism of the U.S. mediated Israeli-Lebanese agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Sharon said Israel had made "dangerous concessions" in making the accord, adding that it would not secure an end to the activities of Palestinian forces in Lebanon.

The Labour Party said that while it was conducting its opposition to the government at home, Mr. Sharon was "slandering" the decisions of his own ruling Likud coalition abroad.

The committee also reaffirms the refugees' categoric refusal to receive the new identity cards and strongly denounces the UNRWA attempt to classify the refugees into different categories, because "such a classification is harmful to the Palestinian cause," the spokesman said.

Hassan off to U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

has adopted as its theme "The U.S. and the Arab World: Partners for Peace."

The conference will include debates and seminars as well as speeches that will discuss Arab-American relations, the situation in Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian problem and the chances of peace in the Middle East.

More than 1,500 participants from the United States, including six congressmen and two state governors are attending the conference, apart from invited dignitaries.

The NAAA is considered as the

major Arab political lobby in the United States to promote Arab causes and rights.

Before the Crown Prince's departure from Amman, His Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein, the King's eldest son was sworn in as the Regent.

Prince Hassan was seen off at Amman Airport by Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Rad Ibd Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief Islamic Justice Ibrahim Al Oattan, cabinet members and the American ambassador to Jordan, Richard Vets.

Committee officials said that they will contact the refugees both in and outside their camps and urge them not to receive these cards, "because such an action by the UNRWA is a stab to the Palestinian cause, which is now passing through its most critical phase."

The committee again called on the UNRWA to immediately suspend such action, "so that it would not take part in the political onslaught unleashed by Israel and its supporters against the Palestinians."

A proclamation was then issued by the committee announcing the first of July as the Palestinian Folklore Day. On that day, the proclamation stated, activities that project the Palestinian culture and heritage will be held.

The committee objectives,

memos to the United Nations secretary general, the UNRWA commissioner-general and the UNRWA representative in Jordan.

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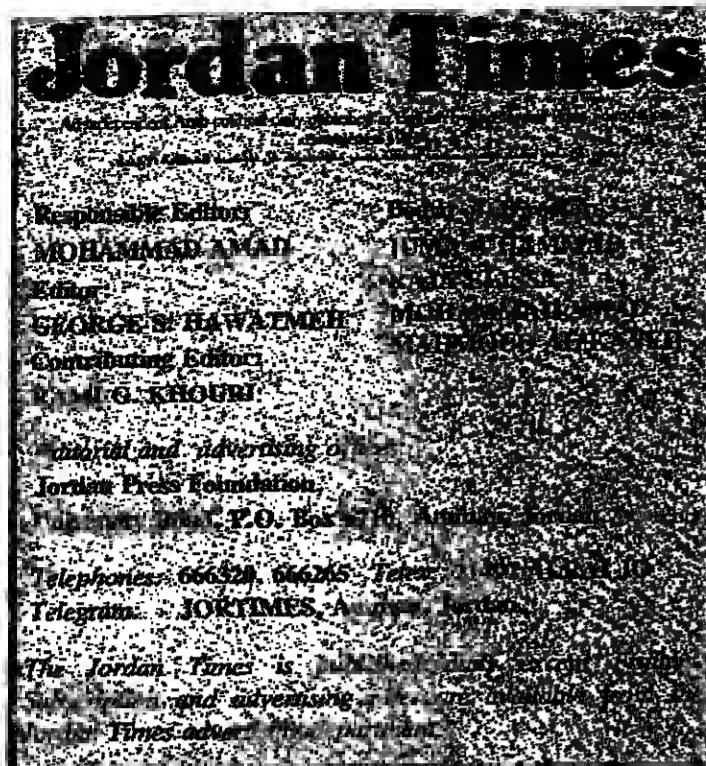
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VIEW FROM AMERICA

Franz Schurmann

Roots of historical hatred is still alive

Yesterday the wires carried news that fighting had once again broken out between Chinese and Vietnamese troops along their frontier. And for weeks now, the wires have been reporting the heavy Vietnamese offensive against Cambodian forces opposed to the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom-Penh. These events again remind us that deep historical hatred among people who have lived close to each other for years still remains the source of so many bloody conflicts in the world.

The deep historical hatred between Chinese and Vietnamese is well known in East Asia. That has puzzled many people from the West. They ask: Do not both peoples share a common culture and civilisation? The answer is substantially: Yes. Probably as

much as 90 per cent of the words in the Vietnamese language are of Chinese origin. Though now written in Latin letters, until a century ago or so, Vietnamese wrote in Chinese or used Chinese characters to express the 10 per cent of their words not of Chinese origin. Just like Chinese, Vietnamese are deeply affected by the great Confucian philosophy, perhaps more so than any other non-Chinese people of the Far East. Vietnam's father of his nation, Ho Chi Minh used classical Chinese to write poetry of great passion. Yet not only do the two governments hate each other, but hatreds go deep among the ordinary people.

The same is substantially true of the relationship between Vietnamese and Cambodians. Most Cambodians are terrified that the bloody Pol

Pot regime could return, yet this, apparently, has not erased as deep a loathing of the Vietnamese who now occupy their country. Here the cultural traditions are quite different. Cambodians are Buddhist, and their culture like their script remains deeply influenced by the great wave of Hindu civilisation that went east from India some two thousand years ago. Yet in life style, racial and in other ways there are affinities between the two peoples. Many Vietnamese are as devoutly Buddhist as the Cambodians. Yet the hatreds are fierce, both between governments and peoples.

One can find similar kinds of hatreds throughout the world. Consider Yugoslavia whence my father's ancestors came. Two peoples, Serb and Croat, speak identical languages, share similar cultures, though

differ in religion. Yet the hostility between them remains as great as it has been in the past, and many fear a revival of the terrible blood-letting between the two peoples that took place during World War II.

We might consider that some of the bloodiest wars in human history have been civil wars. And that is true of our own American Civil War (1861-1865) in which a half-million people were killed, the second bloodiest war in the 19th century after China's Taiping Rebellion which too was a massive civil war.

Why does brother hate brother with such a passion for blood that some of the greatest human tragedies in our history have resulted from that? Is it just the jealousy of a Cain for the favoured brother Abel? No, there would appear to be

more involved.

Reflection on human history suggests that almost always something much more than the human angers between Cain and Abel are involved. The words religion or ideology or doctrines come to mind. In European history, the bloodiest wars were actually called the 'wars of religion' (France in the 1500's and Germany in the early 1600's). The war between Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia was a war of two religions, to speak: one Nazism and the other Communism. Hitler, whose picture hung in all German homes like some saint, was manufactured into a god, just as Stalin, whose picture too hung in Soviet homes. So too the Emperor of Japan who, like Hitler and Stalin, had been turned into a god by the Wester-style imperialism which Japan adopted.

What comes next?

THE debate in the Arab World about the acceptability of the agreement for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is one of the strangest things we have witnessed in a very long time. Some Arab parties say the agreement is the best that can be hoped for at the moment, and thus should be supported and quickly implemented to free Lebanon from direct Israeli occupation. Others counter that the accord is unacceptable because it provides for a residual Israeli presence in southern Lebanon which is seen as allowing Israel to enjoy a political gain that it did not secure in its invasion of Lebanon.

The options are all imperfect. If Israel withdraws according to the agreement, it will have added Lebanon to the list of Arab states that it has neutralised. If the withdrawal accord is not implemented because of Syrian or Palestinian refusal to go along with it, the strong possibility remains that Israel will simply withdraw to a line somewhere near Sidon, in south Lebanon, thereby dividing Lebanon into a series of zones under the control of assorted Lebanese factions as well as under Israel and the Syria-Palestinian forces.

Thus it seems that the Arabs have to pick the best of a bad selection of options. One important aspect of the withdrawal agreement that the United States secretary of state negotiated between Israel and Lebanon is whether or not it indicates a better American approach to mediation in the Middle East. If there is convincing proof that the American effort in formulating this agreement is the forerunner of similar efforts in the near future to moderate Israeli demands and spur a negotiating process based on mutual recognition by Palestinians and Israelis, then it would seem worth the risk to support this agreement to put the Lebanon issue behind us and get back to the more central issue of Palestinian-Israeli coexistence. To argue about the advantages that Israel gains from the withdrawal accord while Israel now occupies half of Lebanon seems a rather hollow argument. The more important issue remains whether this withdrawal agreement can lead to further fruitful negotiations.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arabs should back Lebanon

THE withdrawal accord on Lebanon is receiving its final touches, and it is expected to be signed Friday during the Israeli-Lebanese meeting in Natanya. The Syrian capital meanwhile has witnessed intensified contacts by Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem with Syrian officials aimed at creating a suitable climate for the implementation of the accord that calls for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

If the Lebanese minister succeeds in his task, this will leave Israel with no excuses for staying in Lebanon especially under the pretext that the Syrians are responsible for such a continuation. Israel, since U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Damascus, has tried to build up a propaganda campaign to the effect that Syria, should it occur, is responsible for the failure of the Shultz proposals, and that Syria is concentrating its troops in the Bekaa Valley.

Lebanon is at a critical stage in its history, and it is the duty of all Arabs to help Lebanon restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity. This in turn will concentrate efforts on the central issue of the Palestinian people's rights. It is hoped that the overall national interests of the Arab Nation will be given priority by the Syrians over the machinations of the superpowers which continually try to assert their presence in the region. Lebanon should be backed to the hilt by the Arabs so that Israel may not continue to manipulate the time factor for its own interests.

Al Dustour: How to end the tragedy

THE Lebanese government seems certain to sign the accords reached through U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's peace efforts to engineer an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Yet, there is still some Arab opposition to the accords, particularly from Syria. In Natanya, Monday, the accords will be signed to then be referred to the Lebanese parliament for ratification.

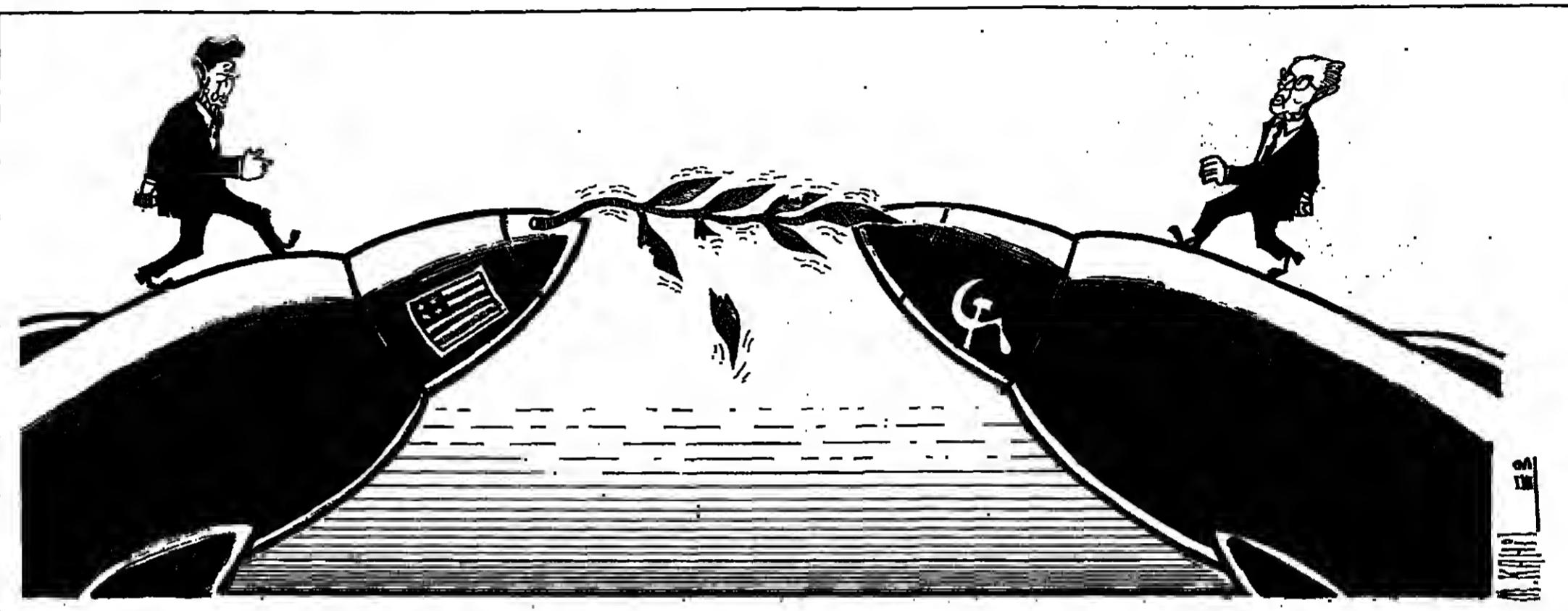
Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem's visit to Damascus aims at softening the Syrian position towards the accord, especially given the negative consequences which it has had among which are the strengthening of the rejectionist attitude towards it in the Lebanese Parliament, and the increasing of tensions in the Shouf mountains and even in Beirut itself.

An Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon will end part of the tragedy. The ending of the rest of the problems needs Arab support to convince Syria to help Lebanon regain its sovereignty and security. This needs perseverance on the side of the Lebanese government, a quality it has proved to be in possession of in abundance during the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. It remains for the Arabs, who hadly let Lebanon down in wartime, to fulfil their national duties in peacetime in its search for peace with both itself and its neighbours. A tortured Lebanon with sectional hostilities and chaos reigning will always be a source of tragedy in the Arab World, therefore the Arabs at least in part have a responsibility to make sure such tragedies do not return.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's systematic plan

ISRAEL has manipulated the U.S. peace efforts to arrive at an agreement on Lebanon which serves its annexationist aims on relation to the occupied Arab territories. No recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, Israel is using every available situation to realise its aim of usurping the Palestinian's land. An intensified drive for settlement building on the occupied territories has been pursued by the Israeli authorities, and threats against the Palestinians and their Islamic heritage are increasing.

A real danger to the safety of the Al Aqsa Mosque is intensified through Israel's decision to permit settlers to enter the mosque and pray in its vicinity. Israel wants Palestine without the Palestinians, and waves of systematic terrorism against them are being launched day after day. Life for those under occupation is made unbearable with the aim of forcing them out of their original land. If tireless attempts are made by the Zionists to divert the public's attention from what Israel is doing on the occupied territories, it is those who are living under threat and are clinging heroically to their national soil that the world should look to for the real answers.



Europe preparing to deploy U.S. missiles

By John Rogers
Reuters

LONDON — To a swelling chorus of dissent, Western Europe is preparing to deploy American missiles targeted at the Soviet Union from late this year.

Hopes that deployment of NATO's new nuclear weapons can still be averted — thus defusing domestic opposition — are pinned on U.S.-Soviet negotiations, which resume in Geneva next Tuesday, to limit medium-range missiles in Europe.

The talks, so far deadlocked, are working to a deadline of next December, when NATO is committed under a 1979 decision to start deploying up to 572 cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Agreement at Geneva on a total ban on land-based medium-range missiles, which would enable the alliance to drop its basing plan in return for Moscow scrapping its own missile arsenal, appears unattainable.

Deployment of at least some of the missiles is inevitable without major concessions which neither side has so far been ready to make, diplomats believe.

Deployment of the first of 464 slow, low-flying cruises would start in Britain in December while the first Pershings are being ins

talled in West Germany, the only country for which this faster variant is earmarked.

If all the missiles were deployed under the NATO plan, West Germany would receive 108 Pershings and 96 cruises. Britain would take 160 cruises, Italy 112, and Belgium and the Netherlands 48 each.

Belgians, Dutch undecided

West Germany, Britain and Italy have taken firm decisions to deploy missiles if necessary, but Belgium and the Netherlands, while supporting the NATO policy, have delayed a final, formal stand until the outcome of the Geneva talks is known.

National politics, as well as the Geneva negotiations and the state of U.S.-Soviet relations, could affect the basing plans.

An upset in British general elections next month could produce a Labour government opposed to the NATO scheme. In the Netherlands, the coalition government faces problems in mustering a majority in favour of siting the missiles.

Anti-nuclear campaigns are gaining strength across Western Europe, and the nuclear debate is expected to intensify as the December deadline approaches.

Reuter correspondents assess

the preparations and problems this way:

— London: British officials say the first concrete missile shelter, equipped with 75-ton doors, should be ready next month at Greenham Common Base, 50 miles (80 kilometres) West of London, where the first 16 cruises will be installed in December.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party appears likely to win the June 9 general election and the government is confident it can deploy the cruises on schedule, the officials say.

No timetable has been disclosed for stationing the next flight of 16 missiles.

The opposition Labour Party is pledged to scrap all nuclear weapons and U.S. bases in Britain and will make the nuclear debate a major campaign issue.

Although most Britons favour

the country's own independent nuclear deterrent force, opinion polls show a majority opposed to the cruises. Many are worried that Britain would not have adequate control of their use.

Greenham Common, site of a permanent women's "Peace camp", is the main target of demonstrations led by the fast-growing Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

Thatcher, declaring the Conservat

ives' "true peace movement," has launched a gov

ernment drive to counter the anti-nuclear campaign.

— Bonn: West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is committed to deployment if the Geneva talks fail, and whether to go ahead will be considered in consultation with other NATO partners after the first 16 cruises will be installed in December.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party appears likely to win the June 9 general election and the government is confident it can deploy the cruises on schedule, the officials say.

The first Pershings are expected to be deployed in December unless a total ban is agreed, followed by cruises next year.

Opposition to the missiles could pose a major test for Kohl. The German Peace Union, linking hundreds of groups, plans a week of protests in October.

The union opposes any deployment, including President Reagan's proposed "interim solution" involving missile cuts by Moscow and Washington to an agreed ceiling.

Greens plan hunger strikes

If missiles are stationed, the anti-nuclear Greens Party plans hunger strikes and blockades of U.S. bases, although the government has not announced where the weapons will be located.

Opponents of the NATO scheme say West Germany is especially vulnerable because of its front-line position and Soviet concern about the Pershing, which Moscow sees as a first-strike weapon.

In the ruling coalition, the right-wing Liberals favour the implementation of the NATO plan. But the larger Christian Democrats have a vocal left-wing opposed to

the missiles.

Government chances of winning a parliamentary majority for siting the missiles will hinge on developments at Geneva and international manoeuvring surrounding the talks.

A first contingent of 225 U.S. troops, of about 2,000 expected by the end of October, has arrived in Comiso.

Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo says Italy's acceptance of the NATO missiles stems from "a bitter but necessary choice," imposed by Soviet missile superiority.

The resignation of the centrist government last month will not mean any short-term policy change. But the Communist Party, opposed to deployment, will press the issue in the campaign for elections on June 26-27.

The anti-nuclear movement is planning a summer of protests in Sicily. Comiso's Socialist Mayor, Salvatore Catalano, hopes the missiles never arrive. "I keep troubling the Geneva talks will produce a positive result," he says.

— The Hague: Strong public opposition and political uncertainties make the Netherlands a doubtful starter for deployment of the missiles.

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Government chances of winning a parliamentary majority for siting the missiles will hinge on developments at Geneva and international manoeuvring surrounding the talks.

The government, with 81 seats in the 150-member parliament, could be forced to rely on small right-wing parties. But a majority obtained with such hacking would be unreliable.

The cabinet formally toes the NATO line, but has avoided a final commitment. Prime Minister Rudolf Lubbers has said failure of the Geneva talks will not automatically lead to deployment.

The government says cruise missiles have not yet been chosen, and denies claims by the church-led peace movement that it is studying the southern air base of De Peel as a possible.

— Brussels: While awaiting the outcome at Geneva, Belgium follows NATO policy — no missiles if the talks produce a ban, full deployment if there is no accord, and partial deployment, in consultation with allies, if there is a limited agreement.

NATO sources say the government is edging towards a "positive decision." Florennes Air Base, south of Brussels, is tipped as the probable site for the cruises, but deployment is not expected until 1985-86.

Levesque determined to push for Quebec's independence

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

MONTREAL — Rene Levesque, doggedly determined to fulfil his dream of an independent Quebec, feels he just has to convince the young and then a new country can

his aspirations for an independent Quebec, he said: "Our basic support is there and hasn't moved much in either direction during the recession. The key to the next election is how the young people will move."

Pledging that the issue of Quebec's sovereignty would be the centrepiece next time he goes to the polls, he added: "We are starting to prepare for that election — it would be two, two and a half years from now."

But victory on the independence issue is going to be an uphill climb. Latest opinion polls show only 19 per cent of voters support the Parti Quebecois.

The problem, Levesque says, stems from a recent strike by civil servants, particularly teachers, who have in the past been among the most loyal Parti Quebecois supporters.

The strikers unsuccessfully battled with the provincial government over its plans to cut Quebec's burgeoning \$2.5 billion U.S. deficit with a 20 per cent cut in

public sector wages.

"Temporarily, we have lost quite a few supporters. That's for sure," said Levesque.

"That was the toughest year we have had. We had to break that strike and for the first time force the public sector, including the teachers, to accept not winning."

Plans to make independence the central issue in the next election have been dismissed by Levesque's arch foe, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, as "a waste of human energy."

"How much more intellectual and emotional energy will disappear into the cesspool of narrow nationalism?" Trudeau asked in a recent interview with the Montreal newspaper *Le Presse*.

Certainly there is no love lost between Canada's two best known politicians. Levesque, a Quebecois like Trudeau, said: "I hate his political guts for what he has done."

Trudeau entered politics in the 1960s to keep Quebec in Canada. Now, after 15 years in the premiership, his chief ministers are

Quebecois and the country is officially bilingual.

But Levesque argues that Trudeau, the committed federalist, "has been despicable in his attitude towards Quebec. He was elected to beat down Quebec, to bring her down to size. He has honoured that unwritten commitment with a vengeance."

For would-be investors, Levesque constantly paints a reassuring scenario of an independent Quebec which could boast a highly developed consumer society and impressive resources ranging from iron ore to hydro-electric power.

"We are practically the last... to get on the bandwagon of national independence," Levesque says.

"I remember in 1945 when the United Nations appeared, there were, I think, 45 to 50 authentic self-governing countries. There are now somewhere around 160."

Pointing to precedents, he said: "When Norway decided to get out from under Swedish rule at the beginning of the century, that was

done peacefully."

"In explosive Asia, the Chinese majority in Singapore wanted to break the link and get away from Malay domination."

SPORTS

Prost says Monaco Grand Prix course getting faster

MONTE CARLO (R) — Faster times during a second qualifying session Saturday for the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix were impressed by Renault driver Alain Prost on Friday.

Frenchman Prost, 28, the quietest man in practice so far, said the 3.12-km road circuit through the town, along the shore of the Mediterranean and round the port is "the kind that improves daily."

He added: "Everyone will be going faster and I will have to fight to keep my pole position but I have no worries."

A fierce duel for the 41st Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday is shaping up between the turbocharged Renaults and Ferraris.

But confidence was also high in the non-turbo Williams team after last practice laps by Finnish World Champion Keke Rosberg and Jacques Laffite of France.

The drivers had a rest day Friday in preparation for Saturday's session in which the number of cars to start the race will be limited from 2n to 20.

Prost had a best practice time Thursday of one minute 24.84 seconds at an average speed of

141.53 kilometres per hour. Compatriot and former Renault team mate Rene Arnoux, who clocked one minute 25.18 seconds in his red-liveried Ferrari, was close behind.

The personal rivalry between Prost, joint leader of the 1983 Driver's Championship, and Arnoux who is still seeking his first win this season, has been given extra edge by the closeness of their times.

Prost said with a smile: "My intention was to turn in the fastest time. The name of the driver behind neither adds to nor detracts from my satisfaction. It would have been the same if it had been Tambay or Rosberg or Laffite."

Arnoux, delighted with the performance of his car, was also confident of improving his time. He set the fastest lap in practice last year in one minute 23.28 seconds.

The Renaults of American Eddie Cheever and the Ferrari of Patrick Tambay of France were third and fourth in practice.

Laffite said the domination of the early practice by the turbo cars did not mean they would have things all their own way in the

race, the fifth of the season.

"Rosberg is already on the second rank of the grid and I intend to be up there with him on Sunday," he said. "If we can qualify just behind the turbos, we will be well placed to make life interesting for them."

The Williams can have proved readily adaptable to the narrow Monaco circuit with its steep hills and tight corners.

The McLaren team duo of Britain's John Watson and Austrian Niki Lauda will be fighting for survival in the second practice session on Saturday. Neither has been fast enough yet to qualify.

Lauda blamed traction problems for the slowness of his car, whose best time has almost five seconds behind Prost's Renault with Watson slower still.

The McLarens were well down the field in practice for the U.S. Grand Prix at Long Beach on March 27, however, but performed brilliantly in the race which was won by Watson with Lauda second.

The teams will have 90 minutes of untimed practice before the second 60-minute qualifying round.

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Portugal, S. Arabia, India set to join African bank

NAIROBI (R) — African Development Bank (ADB) representatives adopted a resolution Friday clearing the way for Portugal, Saudi Arabia and India to become its latest non-African members.

The decision, which has to be ratified by the governments of the three states, will bring the ADB's membership up to 71 countries. The ADB voted at its annual meeting in Zambia last year to allow non-African states to join the 50 African members already in the bank. The United States, Britain, France, Japan and Canada are among countries which have since joined.

Delegates at the four-day meeting, which ends Saturday, also voted to hold their next annual session in Tunisia on May 9-12 next year.

Taiwan to set up international offshore banking centre

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan plans to set up an international offshore banking centre on its territory in an effort to become one of Asia's leading financial cities.

The centre, approved by the government in February and awaiting final sanction from parliament next month or in July, will provide tax concessions to foreign banks and a large measure of freedom from foreign exchange controls.

It will compete with existing offshore banking centres in Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila and Bahrain and possibly also with a similar centre in Tokyo.

Offshore banking centres are conglomerations of banks from around the world drawn together by the tax advantages of operating in that centre.

The proposed centre, expected to start operating early next year, has received a mixed reaction from the 27 foreign banks and six representative offices operating in Taiwan, some of whom believe its establishment is politically inspired.

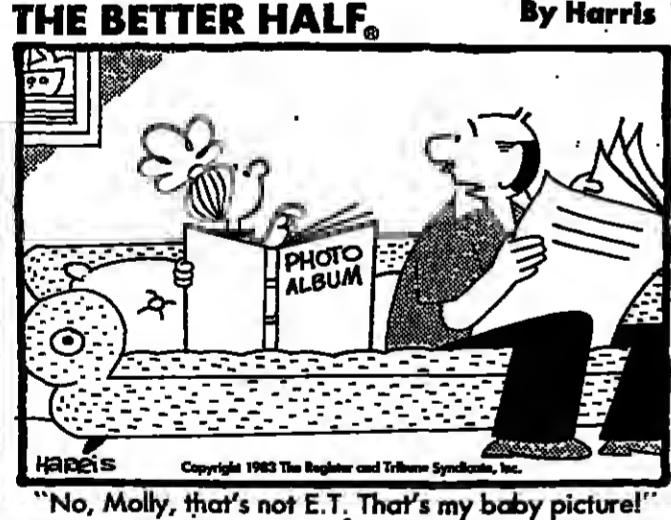
Taiwan appears to want to increase its political and commercial influence, bankers believe, at a time when the country is under pressure from its arch rival, the People's Republic of China.

The People's Republic, which toppled Taiwan from China's seat at the United Nations in 1971, is currently trying to supplant Taiwan in the Asian Development Bank.

The establishment of the centre marks a radical change in the financial policy of Taiwan, which since its creation has maintained strict foreign exchange controls as an anti-inflationary measure.

The nationalists still remember how rampant inflation in China led to their defeat by the communists on the mainland in 1949.

"The banks have not pressed for the centre," one banker said.



By Harris

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

BILLE

ASSOB

SOOJUY

NAITAT

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CROWN BUILT FIDDLE PLOVER
Answer: What she gave him when he asked whether he could see her home—A PICTURE OF IT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul seeks Saudi joint ventures

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — South Korean Finance Minister Kyong Sik Kang said here his country was keen to develop long-term joint ventures with Saudi Arabia. He told the Arab News that instead of just finishing projects and leaving, "we have to seek more far-sighted and deep-rooted ventures" in the kingdom. The minister said he had discussed with Saudi officials the establishment of a joint banking venture between the two countries.

Chile to get \$350m loan

LONDON (R) — The Bank for International Settlements has agreed to grant Chile a \$350 million bridging loan, banking sources said Friday. The loan is part of a proposed \$480 million package arranged between private banks and the Basle-based central bankers' bank to meet a Chilean cash shortage, and will be followed in July by a rescheduling of \$3.4 billion of Chile's \$17.2 billion debt. The rescheduling was agreed at the end of last month between Chile and a 12-member committee of private banks, representing about 600 creditors. It will be accompanied by \$1.5 billion of new loans.

GCC to unify customs fees

ABU DHABI (R) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council will apply a new unified customs levy of between four and 20 per cent on imported goods from Sept. 1, a finance ministry official said Friday. The decision was made in Riyadh on Wednesday during a meeting of the council's finance ministers, said Mr. Ahmad Al Tayer, assistant under-secretary of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) finance and industry ministry. The council groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE and Oman. Member states of the two-year-old council have signed an economic agreement designed to establish a common market.

OAPEC ministers to meet in Syria

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The ministerial council of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) is to meet in Damascus on May 25. The council will discuss a report on economic and technical aspects of the proposed Aligiers dry dock project and consider its budget for the next fiscal year.

World Bank backs Yemeni project

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Thursday it has approved through its affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA), a \$19 million credit for a power project in North Yemen. The bank said in a statement the IDA credit will support a \$42.9 million project to extend electricity service to the rural areas of Ba'dan, Al Misrach, Marawlah and Bani Hushaysh, and expand distribution networks in the cities of Sanaa, Taiz and Hodeida. The project will also receive \$1.4 million from the North Yemeni and the French General Electric Corporation; \$9 million co-financing from the Islamic Development Bank, and \$500,000 for staff training from the Arab fund.

IMF reappoints De Larosiere

WASHINGTON (R) — Jacques De Larosiere, head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was reappointed Thursday to a second five-year term as managing director of the world lending agency. He has won both praise and criticism during his first term as head of the Washington-based organisation. De Larosiere's supporters include a number of government officials from the United States, the country that contributes the most funds to the IMF. In addition, many leading international bankers have praised him for his handling of the current world debt crisis and the speed with which the IMF has lent funds to struggling countries. But De Larosiere's critics have complained that the IMF under his leadership has frequently meddled in the internal affairs of some developing nations, forcing them to make very painful economic sacrifices in exchange for loans.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Swiss banks to aid watchmaking merger

ZURICH (R) — Swiss banks are to back the merger of the country's two leading watchmaking groups with 600 million Swiss francs (\$295 million) in the biggest bail-out in the history of Swiss industry, banking sources said Friday.

Algemeine Schweizerische Uhrenindustrie (ASUAG) Thursday night announced plans to combine with Societe de Suisse pour l'Industrie Horlogere (SSH) to form the world's second-largest watchmaking concern after Japan's Seiko group.

Both Swiss firms have suffered sizable losses in recent years, and only two years ago SSH had to be saved from bankruptcy by 300 million francs (\$148 million) of aid from the banks.

ASUAG markets Rado and Longines watches while SSH produces Omega and Tissot. Neither group has been able to cope with worldwide over-production, tough competition from cheap producers in the Far East and the effects of recession.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed after a quiet session. dealers said. At 1500 Friday the F.T. index was down 0.9 at 667.7.

Government bonds fell as much as 5% point while among mixed equities, the insurance sector weakened in reaction to some speculative selling in a thin market, dealers added.

Gold shares rallied with the bullion price to close mixed against opening lower levels. North American stocks also ended mixed.

Plessey firmed 13p to 617 in response to some U.S. demand. Glaxo recouped 60p of the recent fall at 866 and ICI was 6p higher at 450. Thorn EMI, Blue Circle, BOC and Hawker Siddeley eased between 2p and 6p.

Natwest shed 5p to 563 but other banks held steady and in lower insurances, Royal fell 10p to 503. Heath was a similar amount down at 308 while Sedgwick Group gave up 5p at 222.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.5648/58	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2271/74	Canadian dollars
	2.4475/85	West German marks
	2.7560/70	Dutch guilders
	2.0300/10	Swiss francs
	48.88/93	Belgian francs
	7.3665/95	French francs
	1458.50/1459.50	Italian lire
	332.85/333.00	Japanese yen
	7.4800/50	Swedish crowns
	7.0875/0925	Norwegian crowns
	8.7175/7250	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	438.00/438.75	U.S. dollars

Braniff says it will fly again

FORT WORTH.

Mr. Putnam said the agreement also needed the blessing of Braniff employees, and was contingent on the company regaining the use of "landing slots" under which planes are granted permission to use busy airports.

Braniff statement said unsecured creditors Thursday told the airline's board of directors that "they approved in concept the Braniff-Hyatt agreement."

A previous deal between Braniff and PSA Inc., a San Diego-based airline, founders when a court upheld the refusal of the Federal Aviation Administration to give the new venture Braniff's landing slots.

Braniff had also been holding talks with Marriott, another hotel group. These discussions were terminated this week.

Under a reorganisation plan filed with the bankruptcy court last month, Braniff has until Monday to come up with a plan for preserving its role as an airline.

As an alternative, Braniff proposed selling its remaining 31 planes and reorganising as a ground-based company carrying out mostly maintenance and scrapping operations in Dallas.

Soviet industrial production rises

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet industrial production grew by 4.4 per cent in the first four months of this year, compared with the same period in 1982, the Communist Party daily Pravda reported Friday.

The figure was slightly down on the 4.7 per cent increase registered in the first quarter and showed that the pace of industrial expansion has steadily slowed since a strong burst of growth in January.

But it indicated that the government's overall target of a 3.2

per cent rise in production during 1983 should easily be met.

Friday's Pravda report said labour productivity had increased by 3.6 per cent during the period from January to April. This was down on the 3.9 per cent improvement registered in the first quarter.

Western economic attachés said Friday's figures indicated that the average annual growth rate would be well below four per cent if current trends continued.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword

by Madeline Miller

ACROSS	25	Fast plane	51	Porky's place	11	Boy: Sp.
1	Wrangle	monogram	12	Was aware	12	Was aware
5	Contract	28	Whip mark	13	Connery	13
9	Lending	31	Rates	54	He gives	21
	institutions		highly		22	Spread seed
14	Tibetan	36	Part of	55	Shade of	22
	monk	AWOL	ego?	56	Alters tha	blue
15	Truth	38	Arrow	65	Listless	25
	stretchar	polson	ridge	66	Respectable	Recession
16	Sheeplike	40	(famous horsa)	67	Meat	27
18	Atop	41	Topsy-turvy	68	serving	Chores
	Within:	desserts?	3D?	69	Della nt	29
19	Ringworm	44	MC's need	70	song	Adriatic island
20	Comes in	45	Repetition	71	British	30
	for a landing?	46	Suggestive	72	composer	Treasury bill
23	Dawn	47	looks	73	God of lava	32
	goddess	Sunday	sermonizer	74	Levees	33
24	One often	49	Therefore	75	Chris	34
				76	Lloyd	35
				77	Pertinent	36
				78	Cong	37
				79	Pitcher	38
				80	Strayed	39
				81	Bozo	40
				82	Sheltish	41
				83	Novice: var.	42
				84	Over again	43
				85	Intansa	44
				86	Garlic	45
				87	Had on	46
				88	61	61
				89	— but the brave...	62
				90	Shantar	

WORLD

Latin ministers seek compromise as Nicaragua repulses rebels

PANAMA CITY (R) — In a marathon session that went into the early hours Friday morning, foreign ministers from four Latin American nations searched for ways to foster peace in war-torn Central America.

The session was the fourth round of talks between the ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, who have vowed to bring five Central American nations to the negotiating table.

Officials had expected the gathering to end Thursday night with the release of a joint communiqué.

The ministers, the so-called "Contadora group", take their name from the Panamanian resort of Contadora where they initiated their peace process last January.

The United Nations Security Council has agreed to wait until the end of the Contadora meeting before setting a date for a new public meeting on a Nicaraguan complaint of U.S. aggression.

The diplomatic efforts took place as tension mounted between Nicaragua and its southern neighbour Costa Rica.

Thais claim Vietnamese withdrawal was a hoax

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam sent 2,000 fresh troops into southern Kampuchea early this month, one day after it announced a partial troop withdrawal from the country, Thailand's security chief said Friday.

Squadron leader Prasong Soonsiri, secretary-general of the National Security Council, said the new Vietnamese troops, based in Kandal Province south of Phnom Penh, replaced soldiers Hanoi pulled out on May 2.

Western journalists were invited to Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese authorities to witness the pullout and saw about 1,500 soldiers leave the Kampuchean cap-

ital and cross the frontier to Vietnam.

Vietnam's ambassador to Phnom Penh, Ngo Diem, said at the time more than 10,000 Vietnamese troops would leave Kampuchea during the month-long withdrawal.

There are an estimated 180,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea hacking up the Heng Samrin government, installed by Vietnam after its invasion of the country in December 1978.

The foreign reporters had no way of checking whether Hanoi would replace the troops it withdrew or had done so already.

Dissident French priest barred from St. Peters

VATICAN CITY (R) — A French priest who accuses Pope John Paul II of heresy, apostasy and causing a schism was barred from saying a traditionalist Tridentine mass in Saint Peter's Basilica Friday.

Father Georges de Nantes arrived at Saint Peter's, the Pope's own church and centre of worldwide Roman Catholicism, to say mass early Friday.

But the canons—the church officials responsible for the day-to-day running of the basilica—refused him permission, Father de Nantes' associates said.

The priest had previously ann-

ounced his intention of delivering a medieval style Latin "libelum accusationis," or formal accusation of heresy, to the Pope in person.

Later a meeting between the traditionalists and Vatican officials degenerated into a shouting match and exchange of insults, Vatican sources said.

Vatican officials said only that Father de Nantes and his group had been invited to discuss their views.

Father de Nantes accuses the Pope of being "the most powerful agent of Marxist expansion in the world."

Sakharov's hopes of migrating to West shaken by TASS report

MOSCOW (R) — Dissident scientist Andrei Sakharov's hopes of emigrating from the Soviet Union have been shaken by a TASS report that he will not be granted a visa for reasons of state security.

"In the Soviet press it has been stated more than once that Sakharov by the nature of his scientific work is a person in possession of particularly important state and military secrets," the official said.

Dr. Sakharov, 61, who played a leading role in the development of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, was refused a visa on the same grounds in 1975 when he was denied the rights of a Soviet citizen.

Earlier she told Western correspondents that Dr. Sakharov was willing to emigrate to the West and settle there because he was

China limits air travel for officials

PEKING (R) — China has cracked down on air travel by junior officials following the hijacking of one of its aircraft to South Korea last week, Chinese sources said Friday.

They said only county-level officials and above are now permitted to travel by plane under regulations introduced last Friday, a day after the hijack.

The Peking office of the national airline CAAC has introduced strict checks on passengers wishing to buy tickets, and long queues have formed as officials carefully examine identity cards of customers.

In the official account of last week's hijacking the New China News Agency said the hijackers had all committed previous offences including theft of firearms and fraud.

It said the ringleader grabbed the plane's controls for more than an hour so that it "kept dipping and climbing alternately and rocking from side to side."

Moscow raps opera singers

MOSCOW (R) — Members of one of the Soviet Union's leading provincial opera companies have been disciplined for performing in a Russian Orthodox Church choir in their spare time, a Moscow newspaper reported Friday.

The head of the theatre had also been severely reprimanded for failing to propagate atheism amongst the performers, it added.

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